

## **SOCNET**

**Title of the project** : Social Networks and Political Participation / Réseaux Sociaux et Participation Politique

### **Period**

2016-2017

### **Abstract**

The project intends to measure and analyze the effects of social networks on political participation. By doing so, it intends to bridge the gap between micro and macro levels of explanation and to investigate intermediate, explanatory factors. Social networks are indeed potential triggers of mobilization in politics, as peers with whom individuals interact can be sources of political influence. The project is based upon a new set of data obtained via an online survey conducted on 2800 individuals in June and July 2016. The latter generated genuine network data, as well as collected information on political habits of the respondents. The empirical focus is on citizens in one single country: Belgium. While many contributions put forward the role played by social networks in increasing political participation regarding a limited number of national cases, the project proposes to enlarge the scope to another country and to study this specific issue in the Belgian context.

**Researchers** : Emilie van Haute – Emilien Paulis

**External partner**: Matteo Gagliolo

### **Funding**

FER – ULB